

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference PF020097	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/07328	International filing date (day/month/year) 08.07.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 26.07.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC H04N5/76		
Applicant THOMSON LICENSING SA et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of two sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the opinion
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 12.02.2004	Date of completion of this report 17.09.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Weber-Kluz, F Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8630



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/07328

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-20 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-9 received on 05.08.2004 with letter of 05.08.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

see separate sheet

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-9
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-9

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/07328

Re Item I

Basis of the report

The applicant amended claim 1 as originally filed by adding "said file is a sliding window on the recording medium", without an indication of the basis for the amendment in the original application. Since this amendment appears not to have a basis in the application as originally filed, the claims as originally filed has instead been taken into consideration.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The following document is cited:

D1: EP - A - 1 185 095

D1 concerns a system and a method for time-shifted program viewing.

In particular, D1 discloses a method of delayed reading of digital video data stored on a recording medium, method in which a fixed quantity of the storage resources of the recording medium is allocated to said digital video data (see in D1, column 3, lines 27 to 33, lines 53 to 56 and column 9, line 20 to column 13, line 28). Therefore no significant difference, which could constitute an inventive step, between D1 and the subject-matter of claim 1 can be seen.

For the same reasons the subject-matter of claims 8 and 9 does not appear to involve an inventive step.

The dependent claims seem to contain only minor modifications to the method of claim 1, all which appear to relate to routine matters normally to be expected of the skilled man. As a consequence these claims add nothing inventive to their respective head claim.

The requirements of Article 33(4) PCT are met.

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CLAIMS

1. Method of delayed reading of digital video data stored in a file (200) on a recording medium (108) characterized in that a fixed quantity of the storage resources of the recording medium (108) is allocated to the file (200) storing these data.
5
2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that, the data being stored continuously on the recording medium (108), a reading window is defined for these data such that stored data can be read only during a specified lag (T_{max}) following their storage.
10
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, the resources of the recording medium being managed by a file controller allotting resources by means of cells, characterized in that a fixed quantity of cells delimited by a start of file cell (201) and by an end of file cell (210) is associated with the file (200) for storing these data.
15
4. Method according to claim 3, characterized in that, when the end of file cell (210) is used to store data, the start of file cell (201) is deallocated, a new end of file cell being allocated to this file.
20
5. Method according to claim 3, characterized in that, when the end of file cell (201) is used to store data, the set of the cells that are distant from the end of file cell by a specified quantity of data is deallocated from the file (200) and reallocated as cells consecutively following the end of file cell.
25
6. Method according to claim 3, 4 or 5, characterized in that separate means of writing or of reading data are used.
- 30 7. Method according to claim 6, the means of reading or of writing comprising, respectively, write or read pointers (202 or 204) characterized in

that the write pointer (202) precedes the read pointer (204) for every cell of a file (200).

8. Device for delayed reading of digital video data stored on a recording medium (108), characterized in that it comprises means for allocating a fixed quantity of the storage resources of the recording medium (108) to the file (200) storing these data,

the said device preferably being adapted to implement a method according to one of claims 1 to 7.

10

9. Computer program product comprising program code instructions for the execution of the steps of the method of delayed reading of digital video data according to one of claims 1 to 7, when the said program is executed on a computer.